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LETTER DATED 4 NOVEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of 4 November 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

On 4 November 1998, at about 4 a.m., an armed group of Mahmud Khudoiberdiev's men carried out an attack on a number of important targets in the town of Khujand. In the course of the attack they attempted to gain control over several administrative buildings. As a result of the armed encounter, casualties and enormous material losses were sustained.

This barbaric attack was preceded by the action carried out on 3 November 1998 by a terrorist group from the same movement in the town of Kurgan-Tube in Khatlon province, where several explosions occurred, leaving behind a number of human casualties. A search operation undertaken by the forces of law and order led within a very short time to the identification and arrest of this terrorist group, members of which testified that Mahmud Khudoiberdiev's forces were preparing a large-scale military operation in the territory of the Leninabad province in the next few days.

It is well known that these anti-government forces in Tajikistan are pursuing the aim of altering the country's course towards national reconciliation and overthrowing by violent means the constitutional power in order to satisfy their own narrow, mercenary ambitions. To achieve them they are prepared to engage both in terror and, effectively, in a declaration of war against their own people.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan invites all those participating in the anti-government movement to lay down their arms and surrender to the country's forces of law and order. Otherwise the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan reserves the right to use against them all the means at its disposal, including if necessary their complete elimination.

The Tajikistan authorities hereby declare, with the utmost resolution, that attempts to alter forcibly the path chosen by the people of Tajikistan towards a lasting peace and national harmony are doomed to total failure. The course we have set is immutable and irreversible.